the resumption of operations of these units; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps have been taken by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has appointed Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) as an Operating Agency to prepare a scheme for rehabilitation/revival of both the cement and the jute units. The IRBI has submitted its report to the BIFR on 14-1-1988. The BIFR has not yet finalised its views.

Automation in Tamil Nadu Telecom circle

*367. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of electronic and computerised telephone exchanges operating in Tamil Nadu telecom circle at present;

(b) what are the proposed modernisation plans in Tamil Nadu telecom circle; and

(c) what is the number of manual exchanges in Tamil Nadu at present and by when these are expected to be converted into automatic exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) At present, 2 local electronic telephone exchanges are in operation in Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle.

(b) For modernisation of the Telecommunications systems, the following is proposed:—

(i) Digital Electronic Exchanges are proposed to be installed at the following places during the 7th and 8th Plans. Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai, Erode, Salem, Tirupur, Cuddalore, Gummudipundi, Maraimlai Nagar, Ranipet, Tuticorin (Port Trust) Sivaganga, Athipadu, Tiruporur, Nowaloor, K. K. Chataram, Bommidi, alugoundpalli, Gopinathampathi, Karrimomgalam, Morandahalli, Morrappur, Bahoor, Ambagarathur.

(ii) Crossbar Exchanges of the ICP type are propsed to be installed at:-

Coonoor, Cuddalore, Gudiyatham, Tindivanam, Tirupathur & Koothanalur to replace the existing manual exchanges.

(c) (i) There are 42 manual exchanges in Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle, at present.

(ii) These exchanges are proposed to be automatised progressively during the remaining period of 7th Plan and the 8th Plan subject to the availability of automatic exchange equipment.

Conference on Public Sector

*368. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference on Public Sector Management was held recently in which a number of Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings and others had participated;

(b) if so, what are the names and other details of the participants;

(c) what are the details of discussions held and recommendations made therein; and

(d) what action has been taken on the recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) A Conference of the Chief